

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 24, 2011

The Honorable Ashton B. Carter  
Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology & Logistics  
Pentagon, Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Under Secretary:

On May 5, 2011, our staff met with representatives from Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization (JIEDDO) regarding the Fisher Program. We appreciate the continued open lines of communication the Congressional Affairs office has given our staff. At that last meeting, JIEDDO stated that, based on their internal prioritization, there are insufficient funds to provide funding in Fiscal Year 2011, but funding should be available in Fiscal Year 2012. The Joint Urgent Operational Needs (JUONs) were given a higher prioritization because of their current success in the field of operations. Nevertheless, individuals from JIEDDO have frequently mentioned that the technology the Fisher Program presents is promising and needed in the field to locate buried Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). The technology remains the most viable and prospective technology to defeat IEDs.

Advance Reconnaissance Corp. (ARC) developed a unique technology for target recognition and IED detection. The capability was demonstrated in a government sponsored test at a United States military test range and the results showed the system detection performance exceeded currently fielded approaches. ARC received a subcontract from JIEDDO in 2009 and successfully completed Phase I of the Fisher Program to test and demonstrate ARC's technology for IED detection in November 2009. However, Phase II has been on-hold due to lack of funding. ARC was waiting for the funding after successfully completing the first phase since January 2010. In April 2011, we were told that when the Full Year Continuing Appropriations Act passed there would be funding available. The marks in the funding table were known to JIEDDO before and expected based on their presentation to the Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee last year.

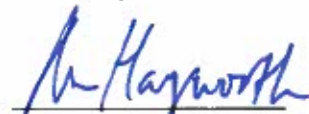
Currently, the Fisher Program is in the "Attack the Network" Line of Operation (LOO1); however, funding is unavailable due to the JUONs. The transfer of Fisher from LOO1 to LOO2, "Defeat the Device" was also discussed. JIEDDO has the authority to transfer the program to another LOO and would simply be required to notify the appropriate Congressional committees. Such a transfer was acknowledged by JIEDDO as a possibility to ensure some funding for Fisher until FY12. On May 10, we were updated that "JIEDDO is not pursuing the transfer of the Fisher Initiative from LOO1 to LOO2 and as such JIEDDO will continue with our plan to fund the Fisher Initiative in FY2012." According to JIEDDO's monthly obligation and expenditure report on April 30, 2011, of the total appropriated in Fiscal Year 2011 approximately \$136.4 million has not been committed. We request further consideration to determine if these resources available can fund the Fisher Program for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2011.

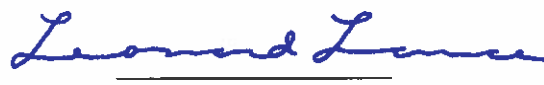
ARC is a small business and, as a result of the original Fisher contract, was using their own resources, expanded their facilities, and invested in equipment to support the needs of the Fisher Program. ARC has sustained the capabilities needed to deliver what has been required to ensure Fisher's success. Without funding to carry over the Fisher program until Fiscal Year 2012, ARC is unlikely to be able to continue to expend the required capital to maintain the structure and infrastructure necessary for this contract and the jobs that are expected will not materialize. Perhaps more importantly, the technology JIEDDO desired to utilize in the field to successfully identify buried IEDs will not be available to locate IEDs in the field.


The technology has been considered a high-priority program by JIEDDO; however, continued delays have postponed deployment to the field. Last month, after inquiring about the expiration of the Period of Performance on April 30, 2011, the contract was extended through June 30, 2011, in order to provide JIEDDO time it needs to determine funding levels for Fisher. Without funding and an additional extension before June 30, the Fisher contract terminates. That means that the program will be required to restart and ARC expects, optimistically, a new contract would be in place around the January 2012 timeframe. Unfortunately, the program rebuilding effort caused by such a delay will move the earliest deployment out to calendar year 2013.

The Fisher program is a viable option for the Counter-IED Senior Integration Group (CSIG) and JIEDDO to counter the threat in Afghanistan, and elsewhere. We believe that it is important to see additional support for this technology because of its potential to protect our troops in the field. It is our hope that these joint efforts will see the successful rapid deployment of technology that can be effective in saving more lives of our service men and women by providing them the necessary capability to cue, confirm, and defeat IEDs. Thank you for your consideration of our letter and we look forward to a response.

Sincerely,

  
Nan Hayworth  
Member of Congress

  
Leonard Lance  
Member of Congress

  
Tom Rooney  
Member of Congress

Cc: Lieutenant General Michael D. Barbero, Director  
Committee on Armed Services Chairman Buck McKeon  
Committee on Armed Services Ranking Member Adam Smith